



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park of  
American Samoa

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## National Park of American Samoa News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### National Parks Commemorate the Service and Sacrifice of Military Members on Veterans Day

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—America's 398 national parks will offer everyone free admission during the Veterans Day weekend in honor of those that serve and have served in the United States military. The National Park of American Samoa is free to visit year round.

"National parks preserve places that commemorate our country's collective heritage – our ideals, our majestic lands, our sacred sites, our patriotic icons – which our military has defended through the years," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of military members, past and present, and honored to tell their story at many of our national parks."

American Samoa was instrumental during World War II to help protect the important trade route between the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. Pago Pago Harbor—the deepest natural harbor in the South Pacific—provided a critical safe haven for military and trade vessels to replenish supplies and refit their ships. The United States military trained local Samoans to assist with the war effort and included the Fita Fita Guard or Navy Landsmen and the Maligi Samoa Marines. They served as mail carriers, local police, boat crews, and basic military defense services.

From frontier forts to World War II battlefields, more than 70 national parks have direct connections to the military. These include our earliest national parks where army engineers designed park roads and buildings and the cavalry enforced regulations from 1886 until the National Park Service was established in 1916.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

*About the National Park of American Samoa. The national park was established in 1988 to preserve the coral reefs, tropical rainforest, archeological and cultural resources, the habitat of fruit bats, and to provide educational opportunities for visitors and residents. National park lands and waters are leased from villages and the American Samoa Government through a long-term agreement with the National Park Service.*

*For more information about visiting the National Park of American Samoa, call 633-7082, email [NPSA\\_Info@nps.gov](mailto:NPSA_Info@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/npsa](http://www.nps.gov/npsa). Also, visit the national park's Facebook and Twitter pages.*

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